

8.3 WETLANDS

As described in Section 7.0 *EXISTING ENVIRONMENT*, the proposed route for the electric transmission line traverses wetland areas associated with a number of streams in the project area, as well as a few very small isolated wetlands. There are no practicable alternatives to crossing these wetland areas should the proposed transmission line be constructed. The majority of the wetland areas in question would be crossed on existing electric utility line ROWs. Moving the alignment of the proposed new transmission line off the existing ROWs would add to construction costs and would have more of an effect on the existing land use in the project area, as compared to the proposed alignment, due to the new ROW that would be required. Moving the proposed alignment off from the existing ROWs would also have more of an effect on the existing land use in the project area due to the further transection of parcels of land in the area. There also are no practicable alternatives to crossing the wetland areas because the proposed route is located generally perpendicular to the wetlands associated with the creeks and the wetland areas extend all along the creeks in the project area. Consequently, attempting to avoid the wetland areas by trying to route around them would essentially be impossible, adding unreasonably to the length of the proposed line and making the line economically prohibitive to construct. However, the proposed transmission line would not have any direct effects on the wetland areas in question because the transmission line would be able to span the wetlands and would not result in the placement of support structures in these areas. The proposed transmission line would also not have any indirect effects on the wetlands because EKPC would be implementing *Best Management Practices* to protect the wetlands from sedimentation and would be employing other mitigation measures to prevent the herbicides from leaching into the wetlands (See

Section 8.2 *WATER QUALITY*). Additionally, no construction equipment or vehicles would be permitted within the wetland areas and wetlands would not be impacted to access the ROW. There are no wetland areas located on either of the proposed substation sites and the construction of neither substation would have any effect on such areas (See Section 7.0 *EXISTING ENVIRONMENT*).

Cumulative effects on the identified wetland areas caused by the proposed electric transmission line project would not be expected. Sediment load of the wetlands, if any, would be negligible given the mitigation measures that would be implemented, and the herbicides would not be expected to combine with rainwater run off in significant amounts and reach the wetland areas.

8.4 FLOODPLAINS

The proposed route for the planned new electric transmission line traverses a number of floodplain areas associated with creeks in the project area (See Section 7.0 *EXISTING ENVIRONMENT*). There are no practicable alternatives to crossing these floodplains should the proposed transmission line be constructed because, with the exception of the floodplain associated with Donaldson Creek, the floodplain areas in question would be crossed on existing electric utility line ROWs. Moving the alignment of the proposed new transmission line off the existing ROW in an attempt to avoid the floodplain areas would add to construction costs and would have more of an effect on the existing land use in the project area, as compared to the proposed alignment, due to the new ROW that would be required. Moving the proposed transmission line alignment off the existing ROW would also have more of an effect on the existing land use in the project area due to the further transection of parcels of land in the area. There also are no practicable alternatives to the transmission line

traversing the floodplain areas because the proposed route is located generally perpendicular to the floodplains and the floodplain areas extend all along the creeks through the project area. As a result, attempting to avoid the floodplains by trying to route around them would essentially be impossible, adding unreasonably to the length of the proposed line and making the line economically prohibitive to construct. However, the proposed transmission line would not have any effect on the identified floodplain areas. Due to the fairly narrow width of the floodplains at the proposed crossing the transmission line would be able to span the floodplain areas, thereby avoiding the placement of support structures within these areas. Neither of the proposed substation sites are located within floodplain areas and, therefore, the construction of the new substation at either of these sites would not have any effect on important floodplain areas.

8.5 SOILS

During the construction of the proposed electric transmission line the soils within the proposed ROW could be affected by vehicles being driven on the ROW causing compaction and erosion of soils. The weight of the vehicles and associated machinery on the ground causes compaction of the soil. Soil compaction increases bulk density and decreases aeration porosity. This affects the soil's ability to store and supply air, water and nutrients. Soil compaction on the proposed ROW would be minimal. To aid in mitigating soil compaction off-road travel of construction vehicles would be kept to a minimum. However, areas affected by construction access roads and areas of sustained gentle slopes along the proposed ROW would experience soil compaction due to the use of construction equipment.

The construction of the proposed new transmission line is not expected to have any significant affect on the soils of the project area. The majority of the proposed project would

entail the rebuilding of an existing electric utility line with adequate electrical clearances between the vegetation and the existing electrical conductors. Consequently, minimal tree and vegetation removal would be required along this section of the proposed route to maintain electrical clearances. Within the new sections of the proposed transmission line ROW, and within the additional ROW width required along the rebuild sections, vegetation would be cut from the ROW to achieve electrical clearances, leaving roots intact to aid in holding soils in place. Soils would be exposed to wind and water erosion at support structure locations within the proposed ROW to allow for the installation of the support structures (0.005 acre per structure), which represents a very small amount of the land within the transmission line ROW. Soils would also be exposed at construction access road locations along the proposed ROW.

During the construction of the proposed substations, soils at the construction sites would be exposed to erosion. As outlined in Section 8.2 *WATER QUALITY*, EKPC would be implementing soil erosion practices to guard against soils from leaving the construction sites, and disturbed areas would be stabilized and revegetated, as soon as practicable, once construction activities are completed. Access to the J.K. Smith 345 CT Yard Substation site would be achieved by existing roads within the existing generating station site and access to the proposed North Clark County Substation site would be achieved by way of an entrance driveway from Donaldson Road that would be surfaced with crushed stone to control erosion. As a result, no significant erosion problems would be anticipated from the construction of the proposed electric substations.

As outlined in Section 8.2 *WATER QUALITY*, EKPC would be implementing soil erosion practices during the construction phase of the project to guard against soils from

leaving the construction sites, and disturbed areas would be stabilized and revegetated, as soon as practicable, once construction activities are completed. Soil erosion on the proposed transmission line ROW during maintenance cycles would not be a problem because mechanical equipment may not be used to perform maintenance procedures, and even if such equipment were to be used, it normally only involves one or two passes to perform maintenance procedures, which would not create an erosion problem. Maintenance associated with the proposed substations would not create any soil erosion problems because access to the substation site would be by way of either an existing entrance drive as is the case with the J.K. Smith 345 CT Yard Substation, or a new permanent entrance drive that would be covered with crushed stone to control erosion as with the North Clark County Substation.

The proposed use of herbicides on the electric transmission line ROW as outlined in EKPC's proposal, would not have a direct effect on the soils of the project area because the herbicides would break down rapidly, would not cause erosion and would not be expected to affect soil productivity. The herbicides are degraded relatively quickly in the soil and combined with the infrequency of application they would not buildup in the soil. There also is general consensus that these chemicals do not significantly reduce the activity of the overall community of soil microorganisms when used on ROWs at normal forestry rates.

Herbicides by themselves do not disturb the soil and cause erosion. It is the application method, which can cause minor erosion problems, i.e., truck mounted spraying equipment driven on the ROWs. After the herbicide is applied and the plant dies, the plant material remains until it decomposes by natural means. The dead plant material does not use nutrients from the soil or block the sun from reaching the ground. The growth of new vegetation occurs with the increased availability of nutrients and the increased amount of sun

reaching the soil. Meanwhile, the dead plant material leaves an organic layer, which mitigates raindrop impact, promotes infiltration, and serves as ground cover to prevent soil erosion. Under the proposal, maintenance of the ROW involving herbicide applications would not have any effects on the soils because the potential for compaction and erosion of soil associated with such equipment would be absent. Following the construction of the proposed line, the maintenance program of the established ROW would involve manual selectively applied herbicide applications, which would not result in exposed soils, or the compaction or erosion of soils.

The proposed electric transmission project would have no cumulative effects to the soils located on the proposed ROW because herbicides do not buildup in the soils and such chemicals would only be infrequently applied to the vegetation on the ROW. Additionally, as outlined above, no significant erosion problems would be anticipated from the construction and maintenance of the proposed project.

8.5.1 Prime and Important Farmland Soils

The proposed route for the planned new electric transmission line traverses soils that are recognized as prime and statewide important farmland soils (See Section 7.0 *EXISTING ENVIRONMENT*). There would be no practicable alternatives to traversing prime and important farmland soils in the project area should the electric transmission line be constructed because these types of soils are scattered throughout the area and would be unavoidable by the electric transmission line route. The effect of constructing the proposed transmission line on the prime and important farmland soils would be minimal. The majority of the proposed route for the new line would involve the rebuilding of an existing electric utility line on existing ROWs that would not have any significant effect on farmland soils.

EKPC also has a policy of allowing agricultural practices within its ROWs as long as they do not interfere with, or jeopardize, the operation of its lines. As a result, prime and important farmland soils would only be permanently lost to agricultural practices in the immediate vicinity of the transmission line support pole locations within the proposed ROW, which represents a very small amount of the total ROW.

A portion of the proposed site for the North Clark County Substation is composed of prime and important farmland soils (See Section 7.0 *EXISTING ENVIRONMENT*). The proposed site for the J.K. Smith 345 CT Yard Substation does not contain prime and important farmland soils and the construction of this facility would not have any effect on these types of soils. There are no practicable alternatives to affecting prime and statewide important soils should the proposed North Clark County Substation be constructed. There is a large amount of prime and important farmland soils in the project area and these types of soils would essentially be unavoidable. The alternate substation site that was investigated on the southern side of Donaldson Road, as well as, the other alternate substation sites investigated (See Section 6.4 *ALTERNATE SUBSTATION SITES*) all contain prime and/or statewide important farmland soils. The construction of the proposed new North Clark County Substation is not expected to have any significant effects on prime and important farmland soils because of the relatively small amount of these types of soils that would be permanently taken out of production in relation to the large amount in the project area.

The proposed electric transmission project is not expected to have any cumulative effects on prime and important farmland soils due to the relatively small amount that would be taken out of production, and due to the rural character of the area and no other projects

known to be taking place in the project area that would result in the loss of these types of soils.

8.6 LAND USE & RECREATION

The proposed electric transmission project would not be expected to have any significant effect on the existing land use in the project area. The majority of the proposed line would involve the rebuild of existing electric utility lines on existing ROWs and the existing land use along these sections of the proposed transmission line route would essentially remain unchanged. The land use along the agricultural portions of the proposed new line sections would also essentially remain unchanged because EKPC has a policy of allowing agricultural practices within its ROWs, as long as such practices do not interfere with, or jeopardize the operation of its lines. The new transmission line was also routed in an attempt to avoid residential development in the project area, although the proposed route does pass within the vicinity of some rural residential development (See Table 8.6.a). Approximately 17 percent of the proposed route for the transmission line, or roughly 57.7 acres, would require clearing and would result in a change in the existing land use. However, this amount of clearing is relatively small in relation to the total project and would not constitute a significant change in land use.

Table 8.6.a – House Proximity to Proposed Route

<i>Distance from ROW</i>	0 to 100 feet	101 to 300 feet	301 to 500 feet
<i>No. of Houses</i>	3	15	22

The proposed J.K. Smith 345 CT Yard Substation site is located in an industrial area associated with EKPC's existing J.K. Smith Electric Generating Station encompassing approximately 3,200 acres and the closest house is located almost a mile from the construction site. Therefore, the construction of the J.K. Smith 345 CT Yard Substation at the

proposed site should not have any adverse effects on the existing land use in the area. The proposed North Clark County Substation site is not expected to have any significant adverse effects on existing land use of the project area. The proposed site is not located near any concentrated residential development, although there is some rural residential development located in the surrounding area (See Table 8.6.b). The proposed substation site is located adjacent to an existing electric transmission line and an existing electric distribution substation is also located in the vicinity, southeast of the proposed site near the northwestern corner of the intersection of Donaldson and Oldson Roads. The presence of these existing facilities should aid in mitigating potential effects of the proposed new substation on the existing land use of the immediate area.

Table 8.6.b – House Proximity to North Clark Co. Sub. Site

<i>Distance from Site</i>	0 to 1,000 feet	500 to 1,000 feet	1,100 to 1,500 feet	1,501 to 2,000 feet	2,001 to 2,500 feet
<i>No. of Houses</i>	0	0	4	5	4

As described in Section 7.0 *EXISTING ENVIRONMENT*, no developed recreational facilities, such as, campgrounds or picnic areas, exist within the project impact area and, as a result, these types of areas would not be affected by the proposed electric transmission project. Incidental hiking, and deer and small game hunting activities could occur within the project area, and could be affected by the proposed project. However, such activities would take place on a case-by-case basis and any effect to these types of activities by the proposed project would be minimal, if at all.

8.7 VEGETATION

The proposed electric transmission line project would involve the cutting of trees along the proposed electric transmission line ROW to provide adequate electrical clearances

for the planned new transmission line. However, the majority of the proposed transmission line route is located on existing electric utility line ROW and only an estimated 17 percent of the proposed ROW would require clearing, or roughly 57.7 acres of the total 339.6 acres comprising the ROW. Vegetation along the proposed ROW in the immediate vicinity of the transmission line support structures would be removed to allow for placement of the support structures. This would involve a very small amount of land of less than 0.005 acre at each structure location.

The herbicides being proposed to manage vegetation during the maintenance of the transmission line ROW would by design kill or injure any plants coming into contact with the chemicals. EKPC is proposing the use of herbicides to control targeted woody-stemmed vegetation on the proposed ROW, but non-target plants could be injured by herbicide drip, over spray, drift or accidental discharge. Herbicide drift should not be an issue, however, because such drift can be minimized and managed through proper application techniques under proper environmental conditions. As part of the proposal, applicators would be appropriately trained on the effects of wind and other environmental conditions on off-site herbicide movement. Weather would be monitored and herbicide applications would be suspended if temperature, humidity, or wind speeds become unfavorable (See Section 8.1 *AIR QUALITY*).

The introduction of herbicide applications, as described in the proposal, would result in vegetation on the ROW becoming comprised mostly of low growing plant species including shrubs, ferns, grasses, forbs, and low growing tree species, such as dogwoods. The majority of the taller growing tree species would be eliminated over time by the herbicide applications. The utilization of herbicides would also result in an increase in the diversity of

the vegetation within the ROW. Through the use of herbicides, woody-stemmed species within the ROW would be reduced or eliminated and competition for low growing species would be reduced. Many of these low growing species require open areas to thrive and with the absence of tree cover, low growing plant communities can better become established. In some instances, under the right conditions, seeds that may be present on the ROW and have a long period of viability will germinate.

The proposed North Clark County Substation would require the vegetation located on the site to be removed to allow for the construction of this proposed new facility. As described in Section 7.0 *EXISTING ENVIRONMENT*, the proposed substation site is currently pastureland composed of open field with scattered deciduous trees and deciduous trees located along fencerows. The proposed site for the J.K. Smith 345 CT Yard Substation would not have any effect on vegetation because this site was previously filled and graded as part of past construction activity at the existing J.K. Smith Generating Station and the site is currently devoid of vegetation.

The proposed transmission line ROW would not change the overall land use, forest types or stand conditions within the wooded portions of the project area and, as a result, fragmentation of the forested lands within the area would not be a concern. Forest fragmentation occurs when the land use of a block of forested land is changed in such a manner that one section of the forest becomes isolated from the other, i.e., establishment of a strip coalmine or construction of a shopping center. The proposed ROW would resemble an area that has been naturally disturbed by a strong straight-line wind and would not result in isolating sections of the forest. Vegetation in the proposed ROW would ultimately consist of shrubs, grasses and forbs, which would not present a barrier to wildlife species, and wildlife

could traverse or move about within the ROW. The construction of the substation also would not result in forest fragmentation because neither of these facilities is proposed for location in wooded areas (See Section 7.0 *EXISTING ENVIRONMENT*).

The cumulative effect on the vegetation of the project area by creating the proposed ROW and maintaining it with herbicides would be a reduction of tall growing plant species and an increase in shrub, forb and herbaceous species. The indirect cumulative effect would be the establishment of a relatively stable low growing plant community requiring minimal treatment in the future. The proposed ROW would promote a more stable, lower growing plant community, resulting in increased diversity of wildlife habitat and decreased intensity of management in the future.

8.8 WILDLIFE

Different wildlife species require different habitats composed of unique arrangements of food, water and cover to survive. As changes in habitats occur the variety and abundance of wildlife species change, as well. The cutting of the vegetation from the proposed transmission line ROW as described in the proposed project may change the movement of wildlife through the ROW in wooded areas due to the cut vegetation. The proposed ROW would produce a linear opening in wooded areas where wildlife habitat would be changed from forested land to early successional type habitat. Bird species favoring this type of successional habitat, such as the eastern towhee, northern cardinal, song sparrow, eastern bluebird, white-eyed vireo, northern bobwhite quail, and the prairie warbler would benefit by the proposed transmission line ROW. The proposed ROW would also provide habitat for a number of small mammal species and birds of prey. Wildlife species favoring forested type habitats, such as the wood thrush, red-eyed vireo, eastern wood pewee, and the ovenbird

would not benefit from the proposed ROW. However, due to the relatively small amount of wooded areas that would be affected by the proposed transmission line, wildlife species favoring wooded or forested type habitat would be minimally affected. Additionally, in any wooded areas affected, wildlife species favoring this type of habitat would move to the forested areas adjacent to the proposed ROW and no cumulative impacts would be expected.

Construction of the proposed ROW would result in the development of edge habitat in forested areas. Edge habitat may occur when two plant communities meet. The edge habitat established by the proposed ROW would generally be between a forested and a grass/forb plant community. Shrubs and young trees would grow to form the edge, or transition zone from grass/forb to forestland. The proposed ROW would be 150 feet wide and the width of the edge would eventually be approximately 10 feet in width along either side of the ROW. The width of the ROW would probably provide nesting habitat for bird species, such as the white-eyed vireo, yellow-breasted chat, northern cardinal, wild turkey, and song sparrow.

The cutting blades of the mechanical equipment used to clear the proposed ROW could injure or kill individual wildlife species caught by the equipment, such as small mammalian, amphibian and reptile species, and nesting birds. The noise produced by the cutting machinery may have short-term impacts to wildlife species in and around the ROW by forcing these species away from the immediate area, but once construction is completed most of these species would be expected to move back into the area. The exhaust from the engines of the machinery could result in the movement of wildlife out of the treatment area on a short-term basis. However, the components of exhaust are volatile and would probably move out of the immediate project area within a short period of time.

The construction of the proposed North Clark County Substation is currently being used as pastureland, as such, would not have any significant effect on wildlife species. The proposed site for the J.K. Smith 345 CT Yard Substation was filled and graded in association with past construction activity at the existing generating station site and is currently devoid of vegetation. As a result, the construction of this planned new substation at the proposed site would not result in the loss of any wildlife habitat and would not have any effect on wildlife species.

The proposed transmission project could potentially affect fish and other aquatic species living in, and downstream from, the project area should a large amount of sediment be eroded from the construction sites and be introduced to the surface water system and transported downstream. However, the proposed project is designed to prevent this from happening by reducing the potential of erosion runoff. As described in Section 8.2 *WATER QUALITY*, EKPC would be implementing *Best Management Practices* (BMPs), as well as other erosion protection measures depicted in Stormwater Prevention Pollution Plans, to prevent sediment damage to the water quality of the project area. As a result, fish populations living in, or downstream from, the proposed project area should not be affected as a result of implementing the proposed project.

The proposed use of herbicides by EKPC to manage vegetation within the proposed transmission line ROW would not be expected to have any adverse effects on the wildlife, fish, or other terrestrial or aquatic species living in and around the proposed project area. The herbicides that would be used on the ROW would be approved by EPA. These herbicides would also be strictly applied according to label directions by licensed applicators.

8.9 THREATENED, ENDANGERED OR RARE SPECIES

The proposed electric transmission project is not expected to have any significant effect on rare or federally listed, or proposed for listing, threatened or endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was contacted regarding the proposed project and they responded that the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), and running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) could occur within the proposed project area (See USFS letter from Mr. Virgil Lee Andrews, Jr. to Mr. Gary W. Gilpin, GILPIN GROUP, January 30, 2006, Appendix C). EKPC conducted a survey of the proposed project area for caves rockshelters, and underground mines that could be used as hibernacula by the Indiana or gray bats, and none were found. EKPC also surveyed the proposed project impact area for running buffalo clover and this species was not discovered. EKPC is committed to performing additional site visits this spring to portions of the proposed route that provide the best potential habitat for running buffalo clover to ensure that this species is not present. EKPC is also committed to conducting mist netting surveys this spring (commencing on May 15, 2006) in areas of the proposed project that provide suitable summer rooting habitat for the Indiana bat. As a result, EKPC has determined that the proposed project would not have an adverse effect on the gray bat, and would not likely have an adverse effect on the Indiana bat or buffalo running clover. EKPC sent this information along with its determinations to the USFWS for review (See EKPC letter from Mr. Joe Settles to Mr. Virgil Lee Andrews, Jr., USFWS, March 1, 2006, Appendix C), and the USFWS concurred with EKPC's determinations (See FWS letter from Mr. Virgil Lee Andrews to Mr. Joe Settles, EKPC, March 9, 2006, Appendix C). EKPC is further committed to sending the results of the mist netting and running buffalo clover surveys to the USFWS for review and

comment, and to following any reasonable recommendations made by the USFWS pertaining to the proposed project. EKPC is also committed to forwarding the USFWS's final determination regarding the proposed project to RUS for review.

The Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) was contacted regarding the proposed project in relation to threatened and endangered species. The KDFWR responded that it was concerned regarding possible effects on the Indiana and gray bats (See KDFWR letter from Mr. Doug Dawson to Mr. Gary W. Gilpin, GILPIN GROUP, January 26, 2006, Appendix C). As described above, the proposed project is not expected to have any adverse effects on either of these two species. The KDFWR also requested that strict erosion and sedimentation control measures be implemented for the proposed project to minimize siltation into karst areas and to minimize impacts to aquatic resources. As described in Section 8.2 *WATER QUALITY*, EKPC would be implementing numerous such measures that would serve to comply with this request.

8.10 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Corten tubular steel support poles would support the proposed electric transmission line and the holes for the installation of the support poles would be augered in the ground. As a result, minimal ground disturbance would take place within the proposed ROW for the placement of the poles, which would not have any adverse effects on important cultural resources. The planned new J.K. Smith 345 CT Yard Substation would not have any effect on important cultural resources due to prior disturbance at the proposed construction site (See 7.0 *EXISTING ENVIRONMENT*), and the North Clark County Substation would not be expected to have any adverse effect on important cultural resources because the proposed site is composed of agricultural land that is currently being used as pasture. The Kentucky

Heritage Council, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted regarding the proposed electric transmission project and they determined that the proposed project would not have any impacts on archaeological, cultural, or historic resources (See EKPC letter from Mr. Joe Settles to Mr. David Morgan, SHPO, December 7, 2005, Appendix C).

8.11 TRANSPORTATION

The construction of the proposed electric transmission project would not have any significant effect on transportation taking place within the proposed project area.

The construction of the proposed electric transmission line could minimally increase traffic within the project area through the movement of construction vehicles along the proposed route. However, this increase in traffic would be temporary and there would be a return to normal conditions upon completion of construction activities. Maintenance of the proposed transmission line would not be expected to have any impact on traffic flows or patterns within the project area.

The construction of the proposed transmission line could also have a temporary effect on transportation in the project area through temporary road closures. During the construction of the proposed line the electrical conductors would be strung on the support structures using a pulley system and helicopter, or with a tensioner mounted on the back of a digger/derrick truck. At the proposed transmission line crossings some of the roads may have to be temporarily closed for safety purposes during the stringing of the electrical conductor onto the support structures. These road closures could range in duration from the halting of traffic for minutes to temporarily closing the road for up to four hours based on the width of the road and the complexity of the crossing. These temporary road closings would not be expected to have any significant impacts on transportation in the area because once the aerial

crossing is completed the road would be reopened, and traffic flows and patterns would return to normal. EKPC would coordinate the proposed transmission line construction with the Kentucky Department of Transportation and would secure all the required permits for the road and highway crossings prior to construction.

None of the creeks that would be crossed by the proposed electric transmission line are recognized as being navigable by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (See Section 7.0 *EXISTING ENVIRONMENT*). As a result, the proposed transmission line would not affect navigable waterways, and section 10 permits under the authority of the *Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899* for the crossing of navigable waterways would not be required. Additionally, the proposed transmission line project would not have any effect on Outstanding Resource Waters, Cold Water Aquatic Habitats, National, or Wild and Scenic Rivers, or special water resources (exceptional waters) because none of the water courses located in the project impact area are so designated (See Section 7.0 *EXISTING ENVIRONMENT*).

The construction of the proposed new electric substations would increase traffic slightly along Donaldson Road and State Route 85 through the ingress and egress of construction vehicles and personnel at the proposed substation sites. This increase in traffic would be minimal and traffic flows would return to normal once the construction of the substations is completed. Maintenance inspections of the new substations once construction activities are completed would not have any effect on traffic flows. These inspections and maintenance procedures would normally involve the ingress and egress to the substations of a small truck carrying one to two persons once every one to two months.